

( 1 )

T H E

# TRANSLATION

OF THE

## States General

# LETTER

TO

## His Majesty,

*The Thirteenth of May 1701.*

SIR,  
SINCE the Protestation we made to Your Majesty, in our last Letter of the 23d of April, not to enter into any Negotiation with France, but in Concert with England; We have judged it proper to ask Count d' *Avaux*, Ambassador Extraordinary from his most Christian Majesty, if he was inclined and Authorized to enter again upon the Negotiation, in the manner it was begun joynly with the Minister of Your Majesty, as Your Majesty will see by our Resolution of the 2d of this Month, here inclosed: Count d' *Avaux* having sent to his most Christian Majesty, after the Return of His Express, presented a Memorial, of which we likewise add a Copy to this Letter. We immediatly communicated it to Mr. Stanhope, Your Majesties Envoy extraordinary, and after having consulted with him about it, We found some Things obscure in the said Memorial, which made Us doubt of the true Meaning of it; Therefore We thought it necessary to acquaint the said Count d' *Avaux* with the Letter we had the Honour to Write to Your Majesty the 23d of April last past; & that we were Engaged not to take any Measures in the Negotiations, but in Concert with Your Majesty. Count d' *Avaux* made Answer to our Deputies, That he was come hither to Treat about the

the Means of Preserving the General Peace, and Establishing Our particular Safety ; That if We would Concert thereupon with Your Majesty, he had nothing to Object against it , and that he was content that Your Majesties Envoy should assist at the **Conferences** which are to be held upon that Subject : But that he was not at all Authorized to enter into Negotiation with him about the **Concerns of England**, which were to be Treated elsewhere : To which our Deputies represented, that in the Preservation of the General Peace, in which Your Majesty is equally concerned with Us, our Safety could no ways be separated from that of **England** ; that the Interest therein was common to both the two Nations ; and that in the present Negotiation, Your Majesty could not, without doing You wrong, be looked upon otherwise than as a Principal Party, as well as We. But notwithstanding the many Instances, and all the Reasons Our Deputies could alledge, Count *d'Avaux* persisted in his aforesaid Answer, saying, That he had no other Orders ; That he would send Our Resolution ( of which Your Majesty will find here-with a Copy ) to the Court of **France**, without giving the least hopes of receiving an Answer agreeable to our Sence of Matters. Upon the Report which was made to Us of this Matter, We judged by this Means the interests of **England** would be separated from those of Our Republick, whereas We think them inseparable : And since it is evident that they are so, We could draw no other Conclusion from this Proceeding, than that **France** had a mind to put an End to these Conferences, and to grant none of the Securities Demanded, and which are so necessary for the Preservation of Your Majesties Kingdoms, and of our State. We are obliged to make all this known to Your Majesty, and do again Protest, That our Interests being the same with those of Your Majesty, in this present Negotiation, and not be separated one from the other, We will not suffer them by any means to be divided. At the same time, Sir, We cannot but Represent to Your Majesty the great need We have of being Assisted, without loss of Time, if We will prevent the Ruine that threatens Us, and the evident Danger We are in. Your Majesty knows perfectly well the State of our Affairs, and will easily judge, if it is possible, in the Condition We are, to resist the Forces of **France**, so much Superior to ours : Which was the Reason of our earnest Request to Your Majesty to perform the Treaty made, with the Approbation of the Parliament, in the Year 1678. Between King *Charles* the Second ( of Glorious Memory ) and this State. We do now repeat our most pressing Instances, that We may have speedily the Succours Stipulated, and the entire Effect of the said Treaty.

We hope Your Majesty will Seriously Consider the State We are in, especially after the positive Assurances Your Majesty has given Us, That Your Parliament had Resolved to Interest themselves with Vigour, for Our Preservation, and to Assist Us in Our present Necessity, by Furnishing the Succours Agreed on. We will Acquaint Your Majesty with the Posture **France** puts it self in, and your Majesty will thereby Judge, whether Our Fear, which Animates Our Demands, is ill grounded. **France** not being satisfied with having taken Possession of all the Places that belonged to **Spain** in the **Netherlands**, does daily put into them, and causes actually to March thither very formidable Forces. They are Drawing a Line from the **Schelde** near *Antwerp*, to the *Mae*, and beginning another Line, as We are Informed, from *Antwerp*, to *Ostend*. They send to the Places which are nearest to Our Frontiers, a very great Number of Cannon. They Erect, with all Diligence

gence, a great many Magazines in *Flanders, Brabant, Gelders, and at Namur*, which they fill with all Sorts of Ammunition and Provision for War, besides the vast Quantities of Forage they lay up every where. They Build Forts under the Cannon of Our Towns. Moreover they have Endeavour'd, and do still Endeavour without ceasing, to separate the Princes Our Friends from Our Interest, and to Engage them in their Alliance, or at least to a Neutrality. In fine Our Friends are made Useless to Us, by the *Intreagues and Divisions* in the Empire, and those of *France Augmented*, so that We are Surrounded on all Sides, except by Sea. You see, Sir, without any Disguise, the true State and Condition to which we are reduced, without the Addition of any Thing but what is Matter of Fact. This makes Us hope, That as Your Majesty knows perfectly well Our Affairs, You will Agree with Us, That Our Condition at present is worse than it was during the last War, and worse than if We were actually in War, since they Build Forts under the Cannon of Our Strong Places, and make Lines along Our Frontiers, and that we cannot hinder them, as We could do, if We were in War. These Reasons Oblige Us to put Our Selves into a Defensive Condition, more than if we were actually Attacked ; To put Our Country under Water : And even to cut Our Dykes to secure Our Frontiers. We find Our Selves forced to make Use of these Means, and whatever else We could have done in an open War, inasmuch that Our Subjects suffer already more than they did in the last War. Hitherto the Winter has been some sort of a small Security to Us : That Season is now past, and We do Expect every Moment to be Invaded and Over-run, unless We are speedily Succoured. We do promise it Our Selves from You, Sir, especially since it has pleased Your Majesty to Assure Us, That Your Parliament had taken favourable Resolutions in Our Behalf. And as Our Necessity is very pressing, so We Beseech Your Majesty to Consider well the Extremity we are in, and the Impossibility we are under of avoiding the Total Ruine and overthrow of our State, if We are left in this Condition. Sir, We Believe the Interest of *England* so closely United to ours, that We will expose our Selves to all Events, rather than suffer them to be Separated, or to take any other Measures than in Concert with Your Majesty. It is very needless to represent to Your Majesty, That the Preservation of Your own Kingdoms should engage You to prevent our Ruine, seeing We think their Lots is inseperable from ours. The Reasons, Sir, are better known to You than to Us, as well as the Fatal Consequences they will be exposed to, in leaving us in this condition ; which persuades Us, that by Your Majesties great Prudence, and the good Intentions of Your parliament, You will direct all things so, as to let *Europe* see, that nothing is more conduced to its Safety than the Alliances with *England*, and Your Friendship for Us ; We expect without Delay the Succours and Performance of the aforementioned Treaty, and pray to God,

SIR,

SIR,

To Preserve Your Majesties Sacred Person in a long state of Health, and  
Your Dominions in a flourishing Condition.

At the Hague, the 13th of May, 1701.

Your Majesties

Very humble Servants,

The States General of the United Provinces,  
ISWichers.

By Order of the States,  
J. Flagel.

Die Veneris 9. Maij, 1701.

IT is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and  
Temporal in Parliament Assembled,  
That the Translation of the States General Letter to His Majesty, the 13th  
of May, 1701. Read this Day in the  
House, shall be forthwith Printed and  
Published.

Matth. Johnson,  
Cleric' Parliamentor.